(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government (Central Electricity Authority) has received a request from Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Limited on 10.9.2004 for Long-term coal linkage to the tune of 2.2 million tonnes per annum in respect of Kothagudem TPS Stage-VI.

(c) to (e) While SCCL has expressed its inability to supply coal to Kothagudem Thermal Power Project Stage-VI, Coal India Limited has agreed to provide coal to this unit.

Specifications for coal mines

1655. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any specifications, to govern extraction, production and transportation of coal from coal mines;

(b) if so, whether the State Government or Non-Government agencies undertaking the mining operations, are following the same;

(c) if so, the reasons behind mishaps happening so frequently in our country; and

(d) the number of such mishaps happened during 2004 and the number of persons died in these mishaps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) Mining of coal in India is broadly governed by the Mines Act 1952, the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act 1957, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act 1973, the Mineral Concession Rules 1960 and the Colliery Control Order, 2000. All agencies are legally bound to carry on mining activities as per the provisions of these statutes.

(c) and (d) The coal companies, in order to prevent mishaps and to improve the status of safety in mines, lay thrust on training of workmen, supervisors and managers. This also leads to increase in safety awareness amongst the workforce. The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), under the Ministry of Labour, is the statutory body for enforcement of safety statutes in mines in the country. Prompt action is taken by the coal companies to rectify the deficiencies observed by DGMS officers. About 88 accidents have taken place in the coal mines in the country in 2004 resulting in 97 fatalities.